

Twenty-Fourth Biennial Report

of the

Superintendent

of the

North Dakota

School for the Blind

to the

Board of Administration



**AMERICAN FOUNDATION FOR THE BLIND
LIBRARY.**

July 1, 1954 to June 30, 1956

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"Buy Dakota Maid Flour"



BISMARCK TRIBUNE 85448



North Dakota State School for the Blind

NORTH DAKOTA SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND

Established by Act of Legislature in 1895. Opened Feb. 18, 1908

Officers and Teachers — 1954 - 1955

Herbert D. Jeffrey, B.S., LLB	Superintendent
Estyre Sundstrom	Teacher, Junior High School
Rose Samuelson, B.S.	Teacher, Elementary, Sight Saving
Edna Kibler	Teacher, High School
Hilda Bell	Teacher, Primary
Joan Flewell, B.M.	Teacher, Piano, Chorus, Band
Ada E. Mark	Teacher, Braille, Handwork, Spelling
Alice Elsie Messecar	Girls' Housemother
Lima Tarr	Boys' Housemother

J. P. Boreskie, M.D., Visiting Physician

Officers and Teachers — 1955 - 1956

Herbert D. Jeffrey, B.S., LLB	Superintendent
Estyre Sundstrom	Teacher, Junior High School
Rose Samuelson, B.S.	Teacher, Elementary, Sight Saving
Edna Kibler	Teacher, High School
Hilda Bell	Teacher, Primary
Joan Flowell, B.M.	Teacher, Piano, Chorus, Band
George Iszler	Teacher, Weaving, Tuning, Foot Travel
Clara Melby (Sept. 1 to Jan. 1)	Girls' Housemother
Alice Elsie Messecar (Jan. 1 to June 30)	Girls' Housemother
Lillian Ranisate	Boys' Housemother

J. P. Boreskie, M.D., Visiting Physician

GENERAL INFORMATION

The North Dakota School for the Blind is maintained by the State under the direction of the Board of Administration.

LOCATION OF SCHOOL: The school is located in Bathgate, North Dakota which is in the northeastern corner of the state.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the North Dakota School for the Blind is to provide a complete educational program from Kindergarten through High School for visually handicapped boys and girls between the ages of six and twenty-one.

WHO MAY ENROLL? Any child, who is blind or whose vision is so impaired as to prevent him from receiving an adequate education in the regular public schools, who is physically fit and mentally capable of receiving instruction, and whose parents are residents of the State of North Dakota, is eligible to attend.

HOW DOES A STUDENT ENROLL? An application for admission must be approved by the superintendent before the child may be enrolled.

WHAT IS THE COST? There is no expense to residents of the State of North Dakota for tuition, board, room, laundry, books and ordinary medical attention. Parents are required to defray all traveling expenses and to supply a sufficient quantity of good, comfortable clothing, plainly marked with the full name of the child.



Large dissected relief maps are only one type of special equipment used

MEDICAL CARE: The school furnishes ordinary medical care for all of the children. Parents are expected to pay hospital and surgeon's bills when operations are necessary.

SCHOOL TERM: A nine months' school term begins early in September and continues until the first week of June. The children remain at the school during this time except for a two weeks' Christmas vacation and short Thanksgiving and Easter vacations. Parents are encouraged to take their children home for weekends and to visit them at the school.

TEACHERS: The teachers employed are specially trained in the technique of teaching the visually handicapped.

HOUSEMOTHERS: Housemothers are employed to supervise the children during the hours when they are not in the classroom. The administration strives to duplicate as far as possible the home environment.

EDUCATIONAL TRAINING

A complete educational program is provided from Kindergarten through High School. The primary aim of the school is to prepare students for life and a livelihood. The course of study corresponds with that offered boys and girls in the regular public schools of the state. The courses given in this school are designed to give the student a broad cultural education which is a part of living. The school through its educational and extra-curricular programs attempts to provide activities and conditions conducive to a well-rounded social and emotional, as well as intellectual life.



Reading Braille



Writing Braille



Sight Saving Pupils

BRaille DEPARTMENT

In the Braille Department we have children who are totally blind or whose vision is too defective to read print or to use it safely. Students

in this department learn to read with their finger tips just as sighted students read with their eyes. Instead of print letters they learn Braille, which is a system of raised dots. The students use a small slate and stylus for writing Braille. The slate consists of two pieces of metal hinged on the left side. Paper is inserted between the pieces of metal and the student embosses Braille dots with his small stylus. Special dissected wooden maps that may be taken apart like a jig-saw puzzle are used in teaching geography.

SIGHT SAVING DEPARTMENT

Students in the Sight Saving Department prepare their lessons in the same manner as boys and girls do in the public schools. The vision of students in this department ranges from 20/200 to 20/70. Before a student is assigned sight saving work, it is necessary to have the recommendation of an ophthalmologist. Special equipment is used in this department which makes it possible for the students to work without undue eyestrain. The desks are movable and adjustable so that the best lighting effects can be obtained. The writing that is taught is not the usual vertical method. Special cream colored writing paper with heavy green lines is used and the pencils have soft black lead. The board work is done on a green board instead of a blackboard and the chalk is yellow in color. The textbooks for this department are printed in 24 point type, the size of the average one-column newspaper headline. The pages are cream colored and have no gloss. Every precaution is taken to remove eye strain from all school work. A specially trained teacher has charge of this department.



Our Band

MUSIC

Our students enjoy music. Instruction is available in voice, piano, and band. This department is well equipped and a number of our students play more than one musical instrument. Some of our students become outstanding performers in the music field, but the primary purpose of the school is to develop a broad appreciation of music that will bring pleasure to the students during their leisure hours throughout life.

Three times a year musical programs are presented to the public in our school auditorium. Several times a year our students furnish talent for musical programs requested by civic and social organizations in the state.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING

Vocational training includes a very good course in piano tuning which is a profitable trade for blind boys. This trade has enabled a number of our graduates to become self-supporting.

We have an excellent rug weaving department. All of our boys and some of the girls are given a course in rug weaving. There is a big demand for the type of rugs that they weave. Rug weaving has helped some of our students to supplement their incomes.

Our girls are taught crocheting, knitting, basketry, and homemaking. The aim of the homemaking department is to give every girl training in all phases of homemaking. The girls are taught washing, ironing, mending and sewing. The girls do enjoy homemaking.



Our Boys Learn Piano Tuning and Repairing

TYPEWRITING

All of the students are taught typewriting. This subject is introduced in the fifth grade which is much earlier than in the public school curriculum. The students use the typewriter to communicate with their friends as well as for written school lessons. Some of our graduates are trained dictaphone operators and have good positions in our state.



Playtime

HEALTH

The general health of the students during the biennium has been excellent. Nutrition is recognized as a vital factor in growing children and menus are planned to give a sufficient quantity of food and the essential elements needed for good bodily growth and development.

SPORTS AND RECREATION

Healthful outdoor sports and exercise are encouraged. The campus is large and well equipped with slides, swings and other playground equipment. Our students enjoy many of the outdoor games and sports that seeing children enjoy. Hikes are taken daily at 4 p.m. under the direction of the teachers.

In the winter we have a large outdoor skating rink and warming house. Ice skating is the students' most popular sport. The students help maintain the rink under the supervision of the superintendent. The superintendent and teachers give the students instruction in skating. When the weather is favorable the students skate every evening.

Many picnics are held during the school year. We have an attractive fireplace on the campus where many of the picnic meals are prepared and served. Several times during the school year the pupils are taken in our school bus and station wagon to places of interest for a day's outing. The visits to Winnipeg, Manitoba are especially enjoyed.

Our students take an active part in the young people's societies in our local churches. Last year Albert Morlock, a junior in our school,



Volleyball

was president of the Bathgate-Cavalier Luther League. Many of our pupils sing in church choirs and prepare special numbers for church services.

All of our older students attend the Artists Series in Grafton, North Dakota. Four concerts are held each year.

SCOUTING

Our Girl Scout Troop is very active on the campus. There is a meeting every week which may be a general meeting, a study group, a party, or a picnic. The purpose of this organization is to create a means of wholesome recreational, educational, and social activity.

A number of the Girl Scout activities have been remunerative. For the past several years the girls have made hand lotion, napkin holders, dishcloths, popcorn and candy to sell. The proceeds from the sales have been used to pay the expenses of the annual outing and for donations to the Red Cross and other worthy organizations.

Each spring a special outing is planned. Last April the girls attended the Ice Follies in Winnipeg. Toward the end of May they camped out overnight and cooked their meals.

Miss Rose Samuelson, who is one of the leaders of the troop, was awarded a scholarship to the Edith Macy Training School in Pleasantville, New York in August 1955. The scholarship was based on her outstanding work with our Girl Scouts. She also received recognition from the GIRL SCOUT LEADER, the national magazine, for the account of her troop's participation in the senior conference.



Square Dancing

BOYS' CLUB

The Beavers, a boys' club, was organized by Miss Ada E. Mark, a teacher, in the fall of 1947. The club places emphasis on three major aims: social development, wise use of leisure time, and citizenship. The club takes an active part in work being done for crippled children. The boys always have charge of the March of Dimes collection here at the school. Each year the club sends a gift to the children at the Crippled Children's School in Jamestown, North Dakota. They also send gifts during the year to several of the boys and girls at the Grafton State School.

Each spring the club sponsors a successful school carnival. The money that the club makes is used to defray the expenses of their annual trip and for contributions to the Crippled Children's School, gifts for the boys and girls at the Grafton State School, the Red Cross, and other worthy organizations.

In April 1955 the club had the opportunity to attend the Grand Ole Opry in Grand Forks. In May 1956 the boys and leaders were guests of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind in Winnipeg, Manitoba. An interesting day was planned which included luncheon at the Institute, a visit to Lockport to see the locks, and an evening at a carnival. We find that our students derive a great deal of benefit from a trip such as this planned by the Canadian National Institute for the Blind.



Our Sunshine Troop of Girl Scouts

STUDENT WINS SPECIAL AWARD
TWINS ARE NAMED TO BOYS STATE



Elmer Morlock

pating counties. The 55 winners were guests of the University of North Dakota for a weekend of activities.

Elmer and Albert Morlock, juniors at our school, were selected to attend Boys State on the NDAC campus in Fargo June 17-24, 1956.

The boys took an active part in the week's activities.

Elmer Morlock, a junior in our school, was among the 55 winners in a statewide awards competition. 1743 students from 111 high schools in the state wrote in the University of North Dakota second annual awards competition. The examination was based on general knowledge of North Dakota history, government and citizenship and was given to students in 43 partici-



Albert and Elmer Morlock

MUSIC CLUB

The Music Club meets once a week and its aim is to stimulate the pupils' interest in music. The group studies harmony, history of music, and the lives of outstanding composers. The club is under the direction of our music teacher.

The club sponsors candy sales, the proceeds of which are used to pay the expenses for trips to concerts.

LIBRARY

Our school has a braille circulating library which provides a wide range of reading material for the blind in North Dakota. The books are sent out to blind borrowers in the state as "Free Reading Matter for the Blind," free of charge. We also have a braille library containing textbooks for classroom use.

FOOT TRAVEL

A course in Foot Travel is offered our boys and girls. The purpose of the course is to train them to move about easily thereby giving them more independence.



FOOT TRAVEL INCREASES INDEPENDENCE

HIGHER EDUCATIONAL AID

Nearly all of our graduates attend schools of higher learning to prepare themselves for suitable employment. Financial assistance is available for this purpose. This assistance is secured from the North Dakota Rehabilitation Service. Such assistance includes travel expenses to and from the college or place of learning, books, tuition, and the cost of having a reader. The cost of board and room for the student while at college is usually secured through the Welfare Board of the county of which the student is a resident. Five of our graduates attended college last year. Elaine Staael, a graduate, who was a freshman at the University of North Dakota last year, was among the 45 University Students who received special awards on Awards Day. The school is very proud of the accomplishments of its alumni.

WHAT SOME OF OUR GRADUATES ARE DOING

Boys	Girls
Rehabilitation Workers	Piano Teachers
Chiropractors	Choir Director
Salesman	Tutors
Radio Repairman	Specialist in Speech Correction
Farmers	Grade School Teachers
Baker	High School Teacher
Masseurs	Typists
Public Reader	Dictaphone Operators
Magazine Stand Operators	Social Service Workers
Voice Instructor	Masseuse
Owner of Dance Orchestra	Seamstress
Ordained Ministers	Stenographer
Piano Tuners	Housewives
Weavers	Industrial plant workers
Trailer Court Owner and Manager	Industrial Teacher
Janitor	Secretary
Teachers	

THE TALKING BOOK MACHINE

The North Dakota School for the Blind is the lending agency of talking book machines for the adult blind of this state. Any adult blind resident may secure one of these machines by making application through the superintendent of the school. The machines are not given outright to applicants, but are loaned for an indefinite period under certain restrictions and regulations.

SPECIAL CONCESSIONS AVAILABLE TO THE BLIND

There is a special deduction for the blind in the Federal Income Tax Law. A blind taxpayer, in reporting his income, is permitted to take a personal deduction of \$600.00 in addition to other deductions authorized by law. The change in the law was made in recognition of

the fact that a blind person has certain expenses growing out of blindness which seeing taxpayers do not have to meet.

Special travel concessions are also available to the blind. A privilege is granted by certain railroads and bus lines whereby a blind person can take a seeing attendant with him for the cost of one regular fare. The blind person should address his request to the American Foundation for the Blind, 15 West 16th Street, New York City. More information with regard to this reduced rate concession may be secured from the superintendent of this school.

SPECIAL ENTERTAINMENTS DURING BIENNIUM

The students are away from home for nine months. During this time the school tries to maintain all of the activities which normally would be carried on in the home. This means that the social and cultural life of the boys and girls must receive special attention. An effort is made during the year to give a variety of outside entertainment in addition to our regular school parties and programs.

During the past biennium the University of North Dakota Madrigal Club, under the direction of Professor Hywel C. Rowland, came here twice to present concerts.

Every year our older students attend the Artists Series in Grafton, North Dakota. Four outstanding concerts are presented each year. Our students do enjoy this type of entertainment.

Several times during the past biennium the students were guests of Ray Little's Radio Cowboy Show. They also had the opportunity to hear the Grand Ole Opry when it appeared in Grand Forks, North Dakota. They saw the Ice Follies in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Many times during the school year the students are taken in our school bus to neighboring towns on pleasure and shopping trips.

LIONS CLUB CHRISTMAS PARTY

Each year the Grand Forks Lions Club royally entertains our pupils and staff at a Christmas party in Grand Forks, North Dakota. The Lions Club plans a day full of interesting activities. All of us here at the school sincerely appreciate the keen interest the Grand Forks Lions Club has in our pupils. The Lions Club Christmas Party is the highlight of our school year.

IMPROVEMENTS AND REPAIRS

Several improvements were made during the past biennium.

During the summer of 1954 new plumbing was installed on the boys' side. This was a much needed improvement.

All of the outside buildings were painted white during the summer of 1955.

The boys' dormitories and girls' dormitories were painted as well as a number of other rooms.

A new auxiliary pump was installed in the septic house in the spring of 1956.

In the summer of 1956 a new intercommunications system was installed to all classrooms.

RECOMMENDATIONS

I recommend that the proposed budget for the 1957-59 biennium be approved in order that we may maintain the same high standard of service to the young blind of North Dakota.

CONCLUSION

In concluding this report, I desire to acknowledge the sincere efforts on the part of all officials of our state government who have consistently provided so well for the material comforts of our pupils.

The continued growth and improvement in the educational and social program that we offer our pupils is possible because of the fine cooperation of our staff who have the best interests and understanding of our pupils uppermost in their thinking at all times.

To you, the Members of the Board of Administration, goes my deep appreciation of your enthusiastic and loyal support. Without your wise counsel and your willingness to share responsibilities, the accomplishments of the biennium would not have been possible.

Respectfully submitted,

HERBERT D. JEFFREY

Superintendent

EXPENDITURES CLASSIFIED FOR THE YEAR

July 1, 1954 - June 30, 1955

Salaries and Wages:

1. Salaries and Wages	\$46,281.66
2. Teachers Retirement and OASIS	968.49

 \$47,250.15

Operating Expenses:

1. Fuel - including freight	3,498.50
2. Light, Power, Water, Telephone, Telegraph, Postage, Freight, Express	1,882.83
3. Insurance, Bonds, etc.	229.86
4. Printing, Office and Educational Supplies	1,196.03
5. Travel	134.79
6. Power House Supplies	124.86
7. Janitors' Supplies	125.30
8. Students' Welfare	93.39
9. Food - including Meats, etc.	7,877.09
10. Clothing	
11. Hospital and Medical Service	187.62
12. Laundry Costs	101.79
13. Farm, Garden and Grounds	447.10

 15,899.16

Improvements and Repairs:

1. General Repairs	1,410.03
2. Painting Interior and Repairing Floors	263.67

 1,673.70

Equipment:

1. General	2,215.76
2. New Station Wagon	

 2,215.76

Miscellaneous Expenses:

1. Miscellaneous Items	726.20
2. State Land Department Refunds	
3. Prior to July 1, 1953	

 726.20

TOTAL PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR

 \$67,764.97

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

CASH

July 1, 1954 - June 30, 1955

	Balance July 1, 1954	Collections	Expenditures	Balance June 30, 1955
Interest and Income .	\$ 2,627.08	\$16,035.30	\$14,987.82	\$ 3,674.56
Institutional Collections	7,566.85	189.35	734.25	7,021.95
TOTAL	\$10,193.93	\$16,224.65	\$15,722.07	\$10,696.51

BUDGET

July 1, 1954 - June 30, 1955

	Balance July 1, 1954	Collections	Expenditures	Balance June 30, 1955
Maintenance	\$79,401.09		\$63,149.31	\$16,251.78
Improvements & Repairs	1,914.96		1,673.70	241.26
Equipment	3,896.89		2,215.76	1,681.13
Miscellaneous Items	1,091.23		726.20	365.03
Prior to July 1, 1953	3,084.60			3,084.60
TOTAL	\$89,388.77		\$67,764.97	\$21,623.80

EXPENDITURES CLASSIFIED FOR THE YEAR

July 1, 1955 - June 30, 1956

Salaries and Wages:

1. Salaries and Wages	\$48,122.47
2. Teachers Retirement and OASIS	1,148.91

 \$49,271.38

Operating Expenses:

1. Fuel - including freight	3,523.68
2. Light, Power, Water, Telephone Telegraph, Postage, Freight, Express	2,245.43
3. Insurance, Bonds, etc.	813.51
4. Printing, Office & Educational Supplies	1,510.93
5. Travel	299.16
6. Power House Supplies	155.73
7. Janitors' Supplies	70.63
8. Students' Welfare	142.33
9. Food - including Meats, etc.	7,360.02
10. Clothing	57.17
11. Hospital and Medical Service	291.03
12. Laundry Costs	
13. Farm, Garden and Grounds	269.96

 16,739.58

Improvements and Repairs:

1. General Repairs	2,840.87
2. Remodeling and Refurnishing Kitchen and Serving Room	

 2,840.87

Equipment:

1. General	924.91
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 924.91

Miscellaneous Expenses:

1. Miscellaneous Items	907.84
2. State Land Department Refunds	8.77
3. Prior to July 1, 1955	3,008.78

 3,925.39

TOTAL PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR

 \$73,702.13

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

CASH

July 1, 1955 - June 30, 1956

	Balance July 1, 1955	Collections	Expenditures	Balance June 30, 1956
Interest and Income.....	\$ 3,674.56	\$16,909.27	\$ 322.71	\$20,261.12
Institutional Collections	7,021.95	2,114.56	3,517.02	5,619.49
TOTAL	\$10,696.51	\$19,023.83	\$ 3,839.73	\$25,880.61

BUDGET

July 1, 1955 - June 30, 1956

	Balance July 1, 1955	Collections	Expenditures	Balance June 30, 1956
Maintenance	\$151,830.00		\$66,010.96	\$ 85,819.04
Improvements & Repairs ..	5,000.00		2,840.87	2,159.13
Remodel, Refurnish Kitchen and Serving Room	5,000.00			5,000.00
Equipment	5,000.00		924.91	4,075.09
Miscellaneous Items	1,800.00		907.84	892.16
Prior to July 1, 1953	18,539.20		3,008.78	15,530.42
TOTAL ..	\$187,169.20		\$73,693.36	\$113,475.84

